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Health Department Provides Recommendations for Residents And Businesses During Waste Haulers' Strike

The multi-county waste haulers' strike that went into effect today presents potential health concerns. Without regular trash pickup, waste accumulating at homes, businesses and organizations can begin to attract insects and rodents, and emit bad odors.

"The strike presents a challenge to businesses that have significant food waste, such as restaurants, grocery stores and residential facilities," said Dale Galassie, the Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center. "Lots of garbage, especially odorous garbage, tends to attract vermin. However, the cooler weather works in our favor as it reduces odors."

The Health Department is providing the following recommendations for either businesses or residences:

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- If you accumulate substantial amounts of garbage, it can be hauled directly to a permitted landfill for disposal. Onxy Landfill, 701 N. Green Bay Road in Zion, (847) 731-5110, and Pheasant Run, 19414 60th Street in Bristol, Wisconsin, (262) 857-7956, are open. The Countryside Landfill in Grayslake is closed.
- Try to contract with independent (nonunion) waste haulers for disposal containers and service. Look in the yellow pages of your phone book under garbage and rubbish removal for company names.

If your waste will be left in place until the strike is settled:

- Separate food wastes from nonfood wastes.
- Double bag all wastes.
- Reserve dumpster/garbage container space for food wastes.
- Store nonfood wastes in an appropriate location until the strike is settled preferably in a fenced or enclosed area.
- Store recyclables until collection resumes.
- Utilize kitchen garbage disposal units whenever possible.

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